

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system for managing electronic mail messages from a post office protocol 3 server, the method comprising:
 - retrieving header information for electronic messages on the post office protocol 3 server to form retrieved header information;
 - updating an attribute file stored at a client, wherein the attribute file includes an indication of whether an electronic mail message has been read;
 - presenting a mail list on a display using the retrieved header information and the attribute file, wherein the attribute file is used to distinguish between electronic mail messages previously represented in the mail list and new electronic mail messages represented in the mail list; and
 - responsive to a selection of an electronic mail message from the mail list, retrieving the electronic mail message from the post office protocol 3 server and presenting the electronic mail message, wherein the electronic mail message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the electronic mail message is retrieved.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message is retrieved from a cache on the data processing system.
4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the header information retrieves only the header information from the post office protocol 3 server.
5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the header information comprises retrieving all parts of the electronic message from the post office protocol 3 server.
6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message includes an attachment and further comprising:
 - responsive to a user request to save the electronic mail message, filtering the message to selectively save the attachment on the data processing system.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the filtering step comprises:
prompting for a user input as to whether the attachment is to be saved; and
saving the attachment along with the electronic mail message if the user input indicates that the attachment is to be saved.
8. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the filtering step comprises:
comparing the attachment with criteria to form a comparison;
saving the attachment based on the comparison.
9. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the criteria includes at least one of a file size of the attachment and a file type of the attachment.
10. (Currently Amended): A method for sharing a mail account from a post office protocol 3 server with a plurality of users having at least one computing device having limited storage amongst the plurality of users, the method comprising:
retrieving portions of incoming mail in storage in a mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server, wherein the incoming mail is kept in storage in the mail box at the post office protocol 3 server;
presenting a mail list using the portions of incoming mail retrieved from the mailbox at the post office protocol 3 server;
retrieving, from the post office protocol 3 server, individual messages from the mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server if one of the users selects a message for display, wherein the selected message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the selected message is retrieved; and
filtering the message from the individual messages to a folder in a shared directory in the local storage in response to a user request to save the message, wherein the shared directory is shared by each user sharing the mail account.
11. (Original): The method of claim 10 further comprising:
creating a bookkeeping file at the at least one computing device, wherein the bookkeeping file indicates which messages have been viewed and which messages have been deleted; and

resyncing the bookkeeping file at a given computing device each time the incoming mail is accessed and for each mail operation at the at least one computing device.

12. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the filtering step includes:
prompting for a user input as to whether an attachment associated with the message should be saved;
receiving the user input in response to prompting for the user input to form a received user input; and
selectively saving the attachment associated with the message based on the received user input.

13. (Original): The method of claim 10 further comprising:
retrieving message headers from the post office protocol 3 server upon connection of the at least one computing device to the post office protocol 3 server; and
displaying a list of the message headers at the at least one computing device.

14. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein each user has a folder in the shared directory.

15. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the incoming mail is kept in the storage at the post office protocol 3 server using a configurable option for the post office protocol 3 client.

16. (Currently Amended): A data processing system for managing electronic mail messages from a post office protocol 3 server, the data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to retrieve header information for electronic messages on the post office protocol 3 server to form retrieved header information; update an attribute file stored at a client

in which the attribute file includes an indication of whether an electronic mail message has been read; present a mail list on a display using the retrieved header information and the attribute file, wherein the attribute file is used to distinguish between electronic mail messages previously represented in the mail list and new electronic mail messages represented in the mail list; and retrieve the electronic mail message from the post office protocol 3 server and present the electronic mail message in response to a selection of an electronic mail message from the mail list, wherein the electronic mail message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the electronic mail message is retrieved.

17. (Currently Amended): A data processing system for sharing a mail account from a post office protocol 3 server with a plurality of users having at least one computing device having limited storage amongst the plurality of users, the data processing system comprising:

- a bus system;
- a communications unit connected to the bus system;
- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
- a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to retrieve portions of incoming mail in storage in a mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server in which the incoming mail is kept in storage in the mail box at the post office protocol 3 server; present a mail list using the portions of incoming mail retrieved from the mailbox at the post office protocol 3 server; retrieve, from the post office protocol 3 server, individual messages from the mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server if one of the users selects a message for display, wherein the selected message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the selected message is retrieved; and filter the message from the individual messages to a folder in a shared directory in the local storage in response to a user request to save the message in which the shared directory is shared by each user sharing the mail account.

18. (Currently Amended): A data processing system for managing electronic mail messages from a post office protocol 3 server, the data processing system comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving header information for electronic messages on the post office protocol 3 server to form retrieved header information;

updating means for updating an attribute file stored at a client, wherein the attribute file includes an indication of whether an electronic mail message has been read;

presenting means for presenting a mail list on a display using the retrieved header information and the attribute file, wherein the attribute file is used to distinguish between electronic mail messages previously represented in the mail list and new electronic mail messages represented in the mail list; and

second retrieving means and second presenting means, responsive to a selection of an electronic mail message from the mail list, for retrieving the electronic mail message from the post office protocol 3 server and presenting the electronic mail message, wherein the electronic mail message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the electronic mail message is retrieved.

19. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the electronic mail message is retrieved from the post office protocol 3 server.

20. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the electronic mail message is retrieved from a cache on the data processing system.

21. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the retrieving means for retrieving the header information retrieves only the header information from the post office protocol 3 server.

22. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the retrieving means for retrieving the header information comprises means for retrieving all parts of the electronic message from the post office protocol 3 server.

23. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the electronic mail message includes an attachment and further comprising:

filtering means, responsive to a user request to save the electronic mail message, for filtering the message to selectively save the attachment on the data processing system.

24. (Original): The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the filtering means comprises:

prompting means for prompting for a user input as to whether the attachment is to be saved; and

saving means for saving the attachment along with the electronic mail message if the user input indicates that the attachment is to be saved.

25. (Original): The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the filtering means comprises:

comparing means for comparing the attachment with criteria to form a comparison;

saving means for saving the attachment based on the comparison.

26. (Original): The data processing system of claim 25, wherein the criteria includes at least one of a file size of the attachment and a file type of the attachment.

27. (Currently Amended): A data processing system for sharing a mail account from a post office protocol 3 server with a plurality of users having at least one computing device having limited storage amongst the plurality of users, the data processing system comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving portions of incoming mail in storage in a mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server in which the incoming mail is kept in storage in the mail box at the post office protocol 3 server;

first presenting means for presenting a mail list using the portions of incoming mail retrieved from the mailbox at the post office protocol 3 server;

second retrieving means for retrieving, from the post office protocol 3 server, individual messages from the mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server if one of the users selects a message for display, wherein the selected message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the selected message is retrieved; and

filtering means for filtering the message from the individual messages to a folder in a shared directory in the local storage in response to a user request to save the message in which the shared directory is shared by each user sharing the mail account.

28. (Original): The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the creating means is a first creating means and further comprising:

second creating means for creating a bookkeeping file at the at least one computing device, wherein the bookkeeping file indicates which messages have been viewed and which messages have been deleted; and

resyncing means for resyncing the bookkeeping file at a given computing device each time the incoming mail is accessed and for each mail operation at the at least one computing device.

29. (Original): The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the filtering means includes: prompting means for prompting for a user input as to whether an attachment associated with the message should be saved;

receiving means for receiving the user input in response to prompting for the user input to form a received user input; and

saving means for selectively saving the attachment associated with the message based on the received user input.

30. (Original): The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the retrieving means is a first retrieving means and further comprising:

second retrieving means for retrieving message headers from the post office protocol 3 server upon connection of the at least one computing device to the post office protocol 3 server; and

displaying means for displaying a list of the message headers at the at least one computing device.

31. (Original): The data processing system of claim 27, wherein each user has a folder in the shared directory.

32. (Original): The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the incoming mail is kept in the storage at the post office protocol 3 server using a configurable option for the post office protocol 3 client.

33. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing electronic mail messages from a post office protocol 3 server, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for retrieving header information for electronic messages on the post office protocol 3 server to form retrieved header information;

second instructions for updating an attribute file stored at a client, wherein the attribute file includes an indication of whether an electronic mail message has been read;

third instructions for presenting a mail list on a display using the retrieved header information and the attribute file, wherein the attribute file is used to distinguish between electronic mail messages previously represented in the mail list and new electronic mail messages represented in the mail list; and

fourth instructions, responsive to a selection of an electronic mail message from the mail list, for retrieving the electronic mail message from the post office protocol 3 server and presenting the electronic mail message, wherein the electronic mail message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the electronic mail message is retrieved.

34. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sharing a mail account from a post office protocol 3 server with a plurality of users having at least one computing device having limited storage amongst the plurality of users, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for retrieving portions of incoming mail in storage in a mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server, wherein the incoming mail is kept in storage in the mail box at the post office protocol 3 server;

second instructions for presenting a mail list using the portions of incoming mail retrieved from the mailbox at the post office protocol 3 server;

third instructions for retrieving, from the post office protocol 3 server, individual messages from the mail inbox at the post office protocol 3 server if one of the users selects a

message for display, wherein the selected message is not deleted from the post office protocol 3 server when the selected message is retrieved; and

fourth instructions for filtering the message from the individual messages to a folder in a shared directory in the local storage in response to a user request to save the message, wherein the shared directory is shared by each user sharing the mail account.